(c) the quantity of Janata Cloth produced during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of looms engaged in the manufacture of Janata Cloth in each State; and

(e) how many people are likely to be benefited and how much cloth is likely to be produced during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) At present 15 States are covered under the Janata Cloth Scheme.

(b) to (d) A statement showing the production, number of looms engaged and the people benefited under the scheme for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise are given at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 17 Annexure No. 171]

(e) A target fixed for the year 1995-96 under the Janata Cloth Scheme is 250.00 million square metres. However, as under the existing guidelines the implementing agencies are allowed to surrender target to get benefit of equity under Package-II of the scheme and generate employment through production of Non-Janata Cloth for higher value-addition and better wages, it may not be possible at this stage to assess the number of people benefiting from the scheme.

Outstanding Dues Payable by NTC to Maharashtra State Coop. Cotton Federation

5401. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Textile Corporation has to pay the outstanding dues to the extent of Rs. 103.72 crores to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation for the purchase of cotton;

(b) if so, what are reasons for not clearing the said dues of NTC so far; and

(c) by when these are proposed to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As on 31.3.1995, NTC had to pay a sum of Rs. 76.29 crores to the Maharashtra State Coop. Cotton Growers, Marketing Federation towards purchase of cotton.

(b) and (c) Since cotton is purchased by the NTC mills on credit terms, there are always bound to be certain outstanding dues at any given point of time. NTC is unable to clear all the outstanding dues due to acute working capital shortage. NTC is expected to clear the dues depending upon the availability of working capital.

Yarn Prices

5402. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The yarn prices in the country during the last five years;

(b) The factors which are responsible for increase in yarn prices;

(c) the impact of rise in yarn prices on the textile sector; and

(d) the steps taken to keep the prices of yarn under control?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As per Annexure attached. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 118]

(b) The prices of yarn is primarily governed by market forces such as inflation, supply and demand, cost of power, wages, etc.

(c) Since the yarn is the primary input for fabric production some effect in the increase in yarn will be reflected in the fabric prices. However, other factors such as cost of power, wages, bank interest fiscal levies, etc., also determine such prices.

(d) Prices of yarn are dependent on market forces. Government keeps a close